



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**Energy Grant Funds Available for Businesses, Farmers, and Ranchers**

Lincoln, Neb., May 1, 2003 -- Competitive grant funds of \$23 million for Renewable Energy System and Energy Efficiency Improvement projects are available to eligible small businesses in communities of 50,000 population or less and to farmers and ranchers.

Eligible Renewable Energy System fund uses encompass those projects providing energy derived from wind, solar, biogas, biomass or a geothermal source. Applicants for Renewable Energy System funds, may also apply for Energy Efficiency Improvement dollars under separate application. Energy Efficiency Improvement funds will assist in the replacement or repairing of heating/cooling systems, increasing insulation, replacement of windows or doors, and improving electrical motor, air, or pumping systems. New or improved refrigeration systems, irrigation system improvements, high efficiency water heaters, laundry equipment, geothermal or air to air heat pumps are also potential energy efficiency projects.

Grants are available for commercially available or pre-commercially available technologies for up to 25 percent of eligible project costs. Renewable Energy System requests can be considered for a minimum grant of \$10,000 and maximum of \$500,000. Energy Efficiency Improvement grants a \$10,000 minimum and \$250,000 maximum. Separate applications can be considered for Renewable Energy projects and/or Energy Efficiency Improvement proposals.

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the \$23 Million Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grant program was published in the April 8, 2003 Federal Register. These funds will be competed for nationally.

Applications must be postmarked no later than **JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> 2003**. Complete application information may be obtained from Cliff Kumm or Deb Yocum at USDA Rural Development, 201 N. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Beatrice, NE 68310, phone (402) 223-3125 ext.4.

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